

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-69 (canceled)

Claim 70 (currently amended): A method for transiently enhancing the optical transparency of a target biological tissue of a subject wherein the target tissue is covered by a surface permeability barrier, comprising:

- (a) contacting the surface permeability barrier with a clarifying agent, ~~and~~
- (b) contacting the surface permeability barrier with a means for applying a driving force to the surface permeability barrier;
- (c) applying the driving force directly to the surface permeability barrier to deliver an effective amount of the clarifying agent locally to the interstitial space of the covered biological tissue such that light transmission through the tissue is improved after local delivery of the clarifying agent as compared to before such delivery,
and thereby transiently enhancing the optical transparency of the covered biological tissue.

Claim 71 (currently amended) The method of claim 70, wherein the driving force is selected from the group consisting of iontophoresis, electroporation, a physical force, a chemical force, and ~~acoustic pressure and optical pressure.~~

Claim 72 (previously presented): The method of claim 71, wherein the driving force is a temperature gradient.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The method of claim 71, wherein the driving force is a concentration gradient.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The method of claim 70, wherein the biological tissue is selected from the group consisting of skin, sclera, and mucosal tissue.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The method of claim 74, wherein the surface permeability barrier of tissue is selected from the group consisting of stratum corneum for skin, conjunctiva for sclera, and epithelium for mucosal tissue.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The method of claim 70, wherein the clarifying agent is selected from the group consisting of diatrizoate meglumine acid, glycerol, and glucose.

Claim 77 (currently amended) A method for transiently enhancing the optical transparency of a biological tissue of a subject wherein the tissue is covered by a surface permeability barrier, comprising contacting the surface permeability barrier with a clarifying agent and an enhancing agent such that an effective amount of the clarifying agent is locally delivered to the covered biological tissue to a greater extent than would occur in the absence of the enhancing agent and that light transmission through the tissue is improved after local delivery of the clarifying agent as compared to before such delivery, and thereby transiently enhancing the optical transparency of the covered biological tissue.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The method of claim 77, wherein the enhancing agent is selected from the group consisting of a chemical enhancer, a carrier agent, and a penetrating solvent.

Claim 79 (previously presented): The method of claim 78, wherein the enhancing agent is dimethyl sulfoxide or ethanol.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The method of claim 77, wherein the biological tissue is selected from the group consisting of skin, sclera, and mucosal tissue.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The method of claim 80, wherein the surface permeability barrier of tissue is selected from the group consisting of stratum corneum for skin, conjunctiva for sclera, and epithelium for mucosal tissue.

Claim 82 (previously presented): The method of claim 77, wherein the clarifying agent is selected from the group consisting of diatrizoate meglumine acid, glycerol, and glucose.

Claim 83 (currently amended) A method for transiently enhancing the optical transparency of target skin tissue of a subject wherein the target skin is covered by at least one layer of stratum corneum, comprising:

(a) breaching the at least one layer of stratum corneum to access the covered ~~biological~~ target skin tissue by a means selected from the group consisting of sonophoresis, a microneedle array, radiofrequency generator-induced ablation and electrical arcing-induced ablation,

(b) contacting the breached stratum corneum with a clarifying agent and delivering an effective amount of the clarifying agent locally to the covered ~~biological~~ target skin tissue,

and thereby transiently enhancing the optical transparency of the target skin tissue.

Claim 85 (new): A method for transiently enhancing the optical transparency of a target biological tissue of a subject wherein the target tissue is covered by a surface permeability barrier, comprising:

(a) contacting the surface permeability barrier with a clarifying agent,

(b) applying optical pressure directly to the surface permeability barrier to deliver an effective amount of the clarifying agent locally to the covered target biological tissue such that light transmission through the target tissue is improved after local delivery of the clarifying agent as compared to before such delivery,

and thereby transiently enhancing the optical transparency of the covered target biological tissue.